Virginia Department of Fire Programs

State Fire Marshal's Office, Explosives Section

Application for a Background Clearance Card (BCC),

Pyrotechnician or Blaster Certification

Pursuant to § 27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia any person, as an individual or as a representative of a company, who applies for a permit to manufacture, store, use, handle or sell explosives or blasting agents, or applies to become certified as a Pyrotechnician or Blaster, are required to undergo a background investigation, to include a national criminal history record information check. The background investigation requires the applicant to submit fingerprints and personal descriptive information on forms provided by the department. In turn, the fingerprints and personal information will be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining a national criminal history record check on the applicant.

Because the process to obtain Pyrotechnician or Blaster Certification or a Background Clearance Card (BCC) involves a fingerprint card, applications **cannot** be downloaded from an internet site or be obtained as an email attachment. The fingerprint cards supplied by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) are specifically coded to the SFMO. Please call the SFMO at 804-371-0220 to request an application for certification as a Pyrotechnician, Blaster or BCC to be mailed to you. (NOTE: A "BCC" is not a certification.) You can also make the same request through an email to statefiremarshal@vdfp.virginia.gov. Whether the request is made by phone or email, provide the name and mailing address of who is to receive the application and please indicate if you or they are seeking certification so we can include certification exam information. An examination is not required of those seeking only the BCC.

Once a full and complete application is received by the SFMO, please allow 45 days to process the application and fingerprint card. After submittal, if you have not received a certification card, a BCC, or notification of denial within 45 days of the submittal, you may call 804-371-0220 to inquire on the status of the application.